Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Sent: Thur 11/3/2016 7:51:43 PM
Subject: FW: PFCs Method 537 Update

FYI

Have a good night

Jane

From: Jefferies, Ann
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2016 4:59 PM

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

Cc: Jefferies, Ann <jefferies.ann@epa.gov>
Subject: PFCs Method 537 Update

NECO,

Also on the OW & Regional DW Laboratory Certification Teleconference on October 4, 2016, was an update on PFCs Method 537 by Dan Hautman of TSC.

PFCs Method 537 Update – Dan Hautman

Mr. Hautman reiterated EPA encourages states to provide certification or accreditation to laboratories for EPA Method 537 for PFCs. Even though there are no drinking water mandated

compliance monitoring requirements for PFCs, there remains a robust interest in monitoring for PFCs.

EPA published a technical advisory specific to EPA Method 537 online: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/pfoa-technical-advisory.pdf. EPA Method 537 is clear on the matter of utilizing certified standards: if available, laboratories must use a standard containing both linear and branched isomers for calibration purposes as applicable. Less clear is that quantitation of PFCs is expected to be based on both branched and linear isomers in a field sample where there is an observation of PFCs. This is particularly important for PFOA, because there is a commercially available qualitative standard with both linear and branched isomers for PFOS, but not for PFOA. The method indicates that in the absence of a standard that includes both linear and branched isomers, laboratories can use a linear isomer standard for calibration purposes. The method does not, however, make it clear that in that case, if a response representing any branched isomer is seen (typically immediately prior to the linear isomer peak), the laboratory should quantify that peak using the linear standard and quantitate the total response. This may introduce a response bias (i.e., branched isomers may not provide exactly the same response profile as the linear isomer), but ignoring the branched isomer response creates a greater bias than any response bias that might be generated by using linear standard to quantify the branched peak (particularly for PFOA). TSC explained this in a two-page technical advisory (link above). TSC is also discussing incorporation of this clarification into a revision of the method with ORD. Because of the ambiguity, approximately 70-75% of laboratories running the method under UCMR were only performing the linear quantitation. That percentage indicates a need for further clarity in the method, rather than a fault within the laboratories. *(OGWDW encourages the regions to share this link with their states to inform all interested parties about this posted Method 537 Technical Advisory.)*

Region 2 (Ms. Ringel) asked if the issue was discussed with the Superfund program, as she believed they use that method. Mr. Hautman said that as EPA Method 537 is exclusively for drinking water, he didn't know if the Superfund program would issue separate guidance or reference TSC's technical advisory. They provided comments on a few versions of the advisory.

We will keep you informed of any new information concerning PFCs. One of the topics for discussion on the next OW & Regional DW Lab Cert teleconference is "PFAS/PFC Proficiency Testing Program – coming soon".

Ann

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